



RECS 2024

**Research and Evaluation
Conference on Self-Sufficiency**

May 29–31, 2024

Capital Hilton | Washington, DC

 **OPRE**

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ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Administration for
Children and Families

330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov>

May 29, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the **Research and Evaluation Conference on Self-Sufficiency (RECS) 2024**, convened by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) in the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This conference brings together researchers, state and local administrators, practitioners, and policymakers, among other interested parties, to discuss cutting-edge research on programs, policies, and services that support families on the path to economic self-sufficiency and well-being. For this 22nd convening of the conference, we return to an in-person format for the first time since 2018 (the last two conferences were fully virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic). Additionally, we are pleased to make many conference sessions accessible to virtual attendees across the country. We are excited to gather together again to exchange ideas and findings from the most recent and rigorous research in the field.

The conference sessions are organized in six thematic tracks:

- TANF Programs, Policies, and Populations
- Employment and Mobility in the Labor Market
- Youth Well-Being and the Transition to Adulthood
- Strengthening Families, Fatherhood, Marriages, and Relationships
- Evaluating Social Programs, Building Evidence, and Using Data
- Approaches to Alleviate Poverty and Expand Opportunity

These tracks are meant to encompass major areas of current research and to help you plan your participation in the conference. Each track is associated with a color to guide you through the program.

The detailed agenda in this program book provides session descriptions (pages 9–56). All of this information is also available on our mobile conference app, which you can access via this link: <https://eventmobi.com/recs2024/>.

I particularly want to highlight the **plenary sessions** taking place across all three days of the conference. These sessions will explore

timely and important topics—producing and using evidence in human services programs; collaborations between TANF and child welfare agencies to support preventative strategies; supporting LGBTQ+ youth and adults through healthy marriage and relationship education programs; conceptualizing whole family well-being in diverse human services settings; and applying behavioral insights to inform program improvement. We are honored to have speakers from all levels of government, researchers, practitioners, and individuals with lived experience in these sessions. Additionally, the **Lunchtime Symposium** on Thursday, May 30, will give attendees the opportunity to hear from Alexandra Ravenelle (*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill/Russell Sage Foundation*) about her research on the gig economy and implications for supporting vulnerable workers through research, policy, and practice.

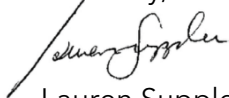
We are delighted to have RECS Emerging Scholars at the conference. Please support them by attending the **Emerging Scholars Lightning Talks and Poster Session** on Thursday, May 30, at 1:15 p.m. ET. I also encourage the Emerging Scholars and other conference attendees to attend the **Lunchtime Panel Discussion: Careers in Research Related to Poverty, Family Economic Well-Being and Mobility, and Social Welfare** on Wednesday, May 29, at 12:30 p.m. ET. Panelists with experience working in federal and state government, research firms, and nonprofit organizations will share insights and guidance about career building in their respective fields and answer questions.

In addition to the formal conference sessions, I hope you will find opportunities for informal networking and exchange of ideas. The wide array of **Facilitated Roundtable Discussions** on the first day of the conference will offer an opportunity for interactive discussions on topics of interest. There are also several social activities on the agenda including the **RECS Social** on Wednesday, and the **Local Area Walk or Run** and **Early Career Social** on Thursday. More information about these activities can be found on pages 57-58 of this program book. Additionally, we invite you to join the conversation and share your conference experience on social media using the conference hashtag #RECS2024.

In closing, I'd like to thank several people for their roles in planning RECS 2024. First, a team of OPRE Social Science Research Analysts is responsible for organizing the conference. Marie Lawrence and Emily Ross lead this team, which is composed of Sarita Barton, Elizabeth Karberg, Jennifer Daniels, KaLeigh White, Christine Kim, and Mykim Hang. Additionally, Amelia Popham, Liza Rodler, and Layefa Leonard-Emuren supported key tasks. Hilary Bruck and Nicole Constance manage the OPRE research division responsible for the conference. I thank them all for their hard work and dedication. I would also like to thank the RECS logistics contractor, AIR, for its work in supporting the planning and execution of this convening. Finally, I'd like to thank all of our speakers for sharing their time, expertise, and perspectives.

Again, welcome to RECS 2024! I look forward to your participation and hope you enjoy the conference.

Sincerely,



Lauren Supplee

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Planning, Research, and Evaluation

About OPRE

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre>

The **Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE)**, within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), studies ACF programs and the populations they serve through rigorous research and evaluation projects. These include evaluations of existing programs, evaluations of innovative approaches to helping children and families with low incomes, research syntheses, and descriptive and exploratory studies. This research is directed to a broad audience, including ACF program offices, researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and program providers. OPRE also works to improve data and coordinates performance management for ACF.

OPRE is comprised of four divisions:

- The **Division of Economic Independence** focuses on welfare, employment, and family self-sufficiency.
- The **Division of Family Strengthening** focuses on teen pregnancy prevention, youth development, healthy marriage, responsible fatherhood, family violence, runaway and homeless youth, and home visiting.
- The **Division of Child and Family Development** focuses on child care, Head Start, Early Head Start, child abuse and neglect, and human trafficking.
- The **Division of Data and Improvement** focuses on increasing the quality, usefulness, sharing, and analysis of data to improve ACF programs and program participants' outcomes.

Stay Connected

During the conference and throughout the year, we invite you to use the tools displayed here to engage with OPRE, conference participants, and others interested in well-being and self sufficiency among families with low incomes.



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Visit RECS online at
<http://recsconference.net/>

Conference Schedule

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29 – 8:45 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

(All times Eastern)

TIME	SESSION
8:45 – 10:15 a.m.	OPENING REMARKS AND PLENARY SESSION
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	BREAK
10:30 – 11:45 a.m.	CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS
11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
12:15 – 1:15 p.m.	TANF LISTENING SESSION (by invitation only)
12:30 – 1:15 p.m.	LUNCHTIME PANEL DISCUSSION: CAREERS IN RESEARCH
1:30 – 2:45 p.m.	PLENARY SESSION
2:45 – 3:00 p.m.	BREAK
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	FACILITATED ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS
4:00 – 4:15 p.m.	BREAK
4:15 – 5:30 p.m.	CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS
5:30 p.m.	RECS SOCIAL

Conference Schedule

THURSDAY, MAY 30 – 8:45 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

(All times Eastern)

TIME	SESSION
6:30 – 7:30 a.m.	LOCAL AREA WALK OR RUN
8:45 – 10:00 a.m.	PLENARY SESSION
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	BREAK
10:15 – 11:30 a.m.	CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS
11:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
12:15 – 1:00 p.m.	LUNCHTIME SYMPOSIUM
1:15 – 2:30 p.m.	EMERGING SCHOLARS LIGHTNING TALKS AND POSTER SESSION
2:30 – 2:45 p.m.	BREAK
2:45 – 4:00 p.m.	PLENARY SESSION
4:00 – 4:15 p.m.	BREAK
4:15 – 5:30 p.m.	CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS
5:30 p.m.	EARLY CAREER SOCIAL

Conference Schedule

FRIDAY, MAY 31 – 8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

(All times Eastern)

TIME	SESSION
8:45 - 10:00 a.m.	CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS
10:00 - 10:15 a.m.	BREAK
10:15 - 11:30 a.m.	CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS
11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	BREAK
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	CLOSING REMARKS AND PLENARY SESSION
1:00 p.m.	RECS ADJOURNS

Detailed Agenda

All times in this agenda are in Eastern Time.

TRACK KEY

 TANF Programs, Policies, and Populations (TANF)	 Strengthening Families, Fatherhood, Marriages, and Relationships (Families & Fatherhood)
 Employment and Mobility in the Labor Market (Employment)	 Evaluating Social Programs, Building Evidence, and Using Data (Evidence)
 Youth Well-Being and the Transition to Adulthood (Youth)	 Approaches to Alleviate Poverty and Expand Opportunity (Alleviate Poverty)

LIVE = Session available via live stream

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

TIME	EVENT
8:45 a.m.	OPENING REMARKS Lauren Supplee (<i>Administration for Children and Families</i>) Jeff Hild (<i>Administration for Children and Families</i>)
9:05 a.m.	PLENARY SESSION Building Bridges Between Evidence Production and Use LIVE  <i>Presidential Ballroom</i> Both researchers and practitioners have a shared interest in how evidence about human services can be used. Researchers aim to conduct rigorous work to inform practice and policy; and practitioners seek reliable and accessible information on evidence-based practices to guide program implementation and improvement. Yet, connecting these shared interests can be challenging. On the fifth anniversary of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act, this plenary session will explore diverse perspectives on what evidence is, who develops it, and how to facilitate evidence-informed decision making. Lauren Supplee (<i>Administration for Children and Families</i>) will provide framing for this topic before moderating a discussion from members of the evidence building community who have experience bridging the worlds of evidence production and use. From improving research communication, to fostering research-practice partnerships, to building data and evaluation capacity, speakers will discuss their experiences and lessons learned while highlighting the significance of incorporating evidence into practice. • Kenneth Braswell (<i>Fathers Incorporated</i>) • Elizabeth (Liz) Eisner (<i>U.S. Department of Education</i>) • Melissa Hall Sommer (<i>Brighton Center</i>) • Melissa Wavelet (<i>MDRC</i>)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

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TIME	EVENT

10:15 a.m.	BREAK

10:30 a.m.	CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Disrupting Racial Bias in Employment Processes: Opportunities for Workforce Programs and Building Evidence **LIVE**

Presidential Ballroom

Programs that aim to help individuals achieve economic self-sufficiency typically focus on addressing individual workers' barriers to employment. But program participants who are workers of color are likely to encounter racial bias in the labor market that could hinder their efforts to achieve self-sufficiency through employment. This session will present insights for employment and training programs on areas of employment bias to consider in program design, as well as strategies that peer programs are using to engage employers around diversity, equity, and inclusion, and reduce bias in hiring as well as in post-hire processes. **Marlene Brostrom** (*HireReach at West Michigan Works*) will moderate the session.

- Disrupting Racial Bias in Employment Processes: Opportunities to Build Knowledge and Practice**
 Andrew Clarkwest (*Abt Global*)
- Engaging Employers to Build Better Workplaces: Strategies From Four Workforce Development DEI Consulting Programs**
 Radha Roy (*Abt Global*)
- Structural Barriers, Job Quality, and Evaluations of Employment and Training Programs**
 Simonne Vincent (*Abt Global*)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

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TIME	EVENT
10:30 a.m.	TANF-Eligible Parents' Access to Critical Supports for Their Young Children  <i>Senate</i> Access to affordable child care and diapers are essential supports for alleviating poverty and supporting self-sufficiency and labor force participation among families with young children. This session will highlight TANF-eligible parents' access to child care and diapers, and examine structural factors (urbanicity, ethnic composition, community child poverty rates, and policy) that shape access. Thom Campbell (<i>Administration for Children and Families</i>) will moderate this session. • The Spatial Inequality of Local Early Care and Education Provision Taryn Morrissey (<i>American University</i>) • Exploring State Policies and Practices Addressing Diaper Insecurity Kelley Massengale (<i>National Diaper Bank Network</i>) • Equity Innovations: Bringing the Caregiver Voice to Diaper Distribution Research Allison Hyra (<i>Westat</i>)

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TIME	EVENT

10:30 a.m.	Connecting Individuals With Justice Involvement to the Workforce: Findings From Federal Evaluations

South American A/B

Federal and state agencies continue to seek effective strategies to connect individuals with justice involvement to employment, as it can help facilitate successful reintegration into society. However, challenges to obtaining stable employment persist and can increase this population's risks of recidivism and homelessness. This session will share findings from three federally-funded evaluations of reentry-focused employment programs. Presenters will discuss promising practices and lessons learned from the evaluations relevant for program administrators, reentry experts, individuals with lived experience in the justice system, and the broader field. **Evan Murphy** (*U.S. Department of Labor*) will moderate the session.

- **Promising and Innovative Models of Employment-Focused Reentry Programs**
Hannah Cortina (*RTI International*)
- **Paving the Pathway Home: Implementation of Correctional Facility-Based Employment Programs**
Armando Yañez (*Mathematica*)
- **Implementing the Individual Placement and Support Model for Adults With Justice Involvement**
Gina Lewis (*Mathematica*)

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TIME	EVENT
10:30 a.m.	Advancing Learning, Evaluation, and Research for Two-Generation Approaches  <i>Federal A</i> A growing number of social service providers are implementing innovative two-generation approaches, aiming to meet the needs of both children and their adult caregivers and stop the intergenerational transfer of poverty. Building on lessons learned from earlier tests of two-generation programs that failed to show evidence of effectiveness, researchers, evaluators, and practitioners are asking – and beginning to address – a wide range of questions about two-generation initiatives, the services they provide, the children and families they serve, and the contexts and communities in which the initiatives are embedded. This full conference session brings together presentations from three ACF projects that take different methodological approaches to building knowledge for implementing, evaluating, and strengthening two-generation initiatives. Marjorie Sims (<i>The Aspen Institute</i>) will moderate the session. • Learning About How to Define and Support Family Economic Well-Being in Home Visiting Grace Atukpawu-Tipton (<i>James Bell Associates</i>) • Describing Head Start’s Coordination and Individualization of Family Support Services Carolyn Hill (<i>MDRC</i>) • Using Formative Evaluation to Improve the Intentional Coordination of Services for Caregivers and Their Children Scott Baumgartner (<i>Mathematica</i>)

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TIME	EVENT

10:30 a.m.	Federal Investment in Fathers: Evidence from Fatherhood TIES, SIRF, and REFRAME

Federal B

Federally-funded Responsible Fatherhood programs provide a range of supports aimed at improving fathers' economic stability, strengthening parenting skills, promoting healthy relationships with co-parents, and supporting positive father-child interactions. Prior evidence suggests that the effects of fatherhood programs are modest on average but also vary widely across studies of different programs. This session will share results from three different federal initiatives—Strengthening the Implementation of Responsible Fatherhood Programs (SIRF); Testing Identified Elements for Success in Fatherhood Programs (Fatherhood TIES); and Race Equity for Fatherhood, Relationship, and Marriage Programs to Empower Black Families (REFRAME)—which offer new evidence to inform how to strengthen programs so they yield larger impacts for fathers and families. **John Allen** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate the session.

- Using Learning Cycles to Strengthen Fatherhood Programs: Final Report on the SIRF Study**
 Dina Israel (*MDRC*)
- Identifying Core Components of Fatherhood Programs: A Meta-Analytic Approach**
 Sandra Wilson (*Abt Global*)
- REFRAME: Centering the Strength of Black Voices in Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Programs**
 Sundjata Aya (*MEF Associates*)

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TIME	EVENT
10:30 a.m.	Using Positive Youth Development to Improve Services Across Systems Serving Youth and Young Adults  <i>Statler A/B</i> The use of Positive Youth Development (PYD) approaches in programs serving children and teenagers has grown over the last several years, as knowledge has developed around the value of such approaches in promoting positive outcomes for youth. However, the use of and evidence base for implementing PYD approaches to serve young adults is still emerging. This session will highlight three projects that demonstrate the application of PYD in different settings serving young adults—child welfare, juvenile justice, criminal justice, and healthy marriage and relationship education programs. Ranita Jain (<i>Annie E. Casey Foundation</i>) will serve as the moderator. • Employer Engagement in the Generation Work Initiative’s Positive Youth Development Priorities <i>Vanessa Sacks (Child Trends)</i> • Centering Positive Youth Development to Enhance Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education Programming <i>Deja Logan (Child Trends)</i> • Integrating Positive Youth Development and Equity-Centered Approaches Into Services for Systems-Involved Emerging Adults <i>Zakia Redd (Child Trends)</i>
11:45 a.m.	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

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TIME	EVENT

12:30 p.m.	LUNCHTIME PANEL DISCUSSION

Careers in Research Related to Poverty, Family Economic Well-Being and Mobility, and Social Welfare

Presidential Ballroom

Moderated by **KaLeigh White** (*Administration for Children and Families/University of Wisconsin-Madison*), this panel discussion—which is open to all conference attendees—will feature panelists with experience working in federal and state government, research firms, and nonprofit organizations. Panelists will provide insights and advice about career building in their respective fields and answer attendee questions.

- **Mina Addo** (*MDRC*)
- **Scott Baumgartner** (*Mathematica*)
- **Samantha (Sam) Illangasekare** (*Administration for Children and Families*)
- **Anna Solmeyer** (*Minnesota Management and Budget*)

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TIME	EVENT
1:30 p.m.	PLENARY SESSION LIVE TANF's Flexibilities to Provide Concrete and Economic Supports for Primary Prevention in Child Welfare  <i>Presidential Ballroom</i> Families experiencing poverty who do not have access to economic assistance are more likely to be involved with the child welfare system than their counterparts experiencing poverty who do have access to economic assistance. Families of color are disproportionately affected and harmed by this link between the lack of economic assistance and child welfare system involvement. Considering the first statutory goal of TANF is to support needy families so that children remain safely at home or with relatives, TANF cash assistance can be leveraged to ensure families struggling to meet their basic needs have access to a robust set of concrete and economic supports. Research demonstrates that providing cash to families can reduce the risk of economic hardship and rates of child maltreatment and family involvement in child welfare, while also promoting stability. This plenary will discuss research, practice, and policy considerations around how TANF can be used as a primary prevention resource to provide tailored and tangible economic supports to families at risk of engaging with the child welfare system. Ann Flagg (<i>Administration for Children and Families</i>) will moderate the plenary. • Rebecca Jones Gaston (<i>Administration on Children, Youth and Families</i>) • Letitia Passarella (<i>University of Maryland</i>) • Clare Anderson (<i>Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago</i>)
2:45 p.m.	BREAK

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TIME EVENT

3:00 p.m. FACILITATED ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

The following **in-person roundtables** will provide an opportunity for attendees to engage in interactive discussions on a range of family self-sufficiency- and social welfare-related topics.

Using Analytic Frameworks and Methods for Evidence-Driven Change in Human Services and Related Programs

Presidential Ballroom

- **Michelle Derr** (*The Adjacent Possible*)
- **Lorrie Briggs** (*Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services*)

How to Improve Access to Safety Net Programs for Young People

Presidential Ballroom

- **Amelia Coffey** (*Urban Institute*)

Value, Opportunities, and Challenges in Federal Efforts to Incorporate Lived Experience as Expertise

Presidential Ballroom

- **Elsa Falkenburger** (*Urban Institute*)
- **Gabrielle Newell** (*Administration for Children and Families*)

Policies and Programs to Reduce Intergenerational Poverty: NASEM's Report of Findings and Recommendations

Presidential Ballroom

- **Connie Citro** (*Committee on National Statistics*)

Relevant, Actionable Information to Making Meaningful Improvements to TANF: What Do We Need to Know?

Senate

- **Emily Schmitt** (*The Adjacent Possible*)
- **Heather Hahn** (*Urban Institute*)

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TIME	EVENT
3:00 p.m.	FACILITATED ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS (continued) Innovative Strategies to Capture Participant Perspectives in Federal Research  <i>South American A/B</i> • Miranda Kharsa (<i>Mathematica</i>) Tools for Success at the National African American Child and Family Research Center  <i>South American A/B</i> • Alex Camardelle (<i>National African American Child and Family Research Center</i>) • Rodney Washington (<i>National African American Child and Family Research Center</i>) Using Data to Evaluate Equity in Workforce Development Services  <i>Federal A</i> • Andrea Leitereg (<i>U.S. Department of Labor</i>) • Kevin Reuss (<i>U.S. Department of Labor</i>) Data Limitations in Equity Research: Implications and Promising Strategies  <i>Federal B</i> • Sarah Prenovitz (<i>Abt Global</i>) • Robert Weathers (<i>Social Security Administration</i>) Sticking Points in Infusing Equity Into Research: A Workshop for Taking Tangible Steps Forward  <i>Statler A/B</i> • Alex Bolin (<i>Urban Neighborhood Initiatives</i>) • Tanisha Tate Woodson (<i>Woodson Insights, LLC</i>) Apprenticeship for All: Reaching and Serving Under-Represented Populations  <i>Pan American</i> • Daniel Kuehn (<i>Urban Institute</i>)

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TIME EVENT

3:00 p.m. **VIRTUAL-ONLY FACILITATED ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS** (access via RECS App)

The following **virtual-only roundtables** will provide an opportunity for attendees to engage in interactive discussions on a range of family self-sufficiency- and social welfare-related topics. These sessions can be accessed via the RECS App and will take place on Zoom.

Lessons Learned From Partnering With Programs to Co-Create a Study

- Jody Schimmel Hyde (*Mathematica*)

Improving Your Program's Outreach, Services, and Outcomes: How Can Knowing the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Rates of Your Community Help?

- Meredith Larson (*U.S. Department of Education*)

Well-Being for the Workforce of the Future: Career Pathways and the Youth Mental Health Crisis

- Amanda Brenner (*U.S. Department of Labor*)
- Nimisha (Misha) Timsina (*U.S. Department of Labor*)

Conducting an Impactful and Integrated Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Process by Creating a Culture of CQI

- Jennifer Leveille (*Midwest Evaluation and Research*)
- Charli Bricker (*Midwest Evaluation and Research*)

Identifying Core Components of Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education Programs

- Mindy Scott (*Child Trends*)
- Kristina Rosinsky (*Child Trends*)

4:00 p.m. **BREAK**

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TIME	EVENT
4:15 p.m.	CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS Challenges and Opportunities in the Evaluation of Programs Serving Transition Age Youth LIVE   <i>Presidential Ballroom</i> Over the past several decades, many programs have provided support to youth to successfully transition into adulthood. However, there remains a lack of evidence supporting the effectiveness of these programs. This session will focus on understanding and addressing the challenges associated with conducting impact evaluations of these programs. Caryn Blitz (<i>Administration for Children and Families</i>) will moderate this session. • Longitudinal Employment and Educational Outcomes for Runaway and Homeless Youth in Transitional Living Programs Scott Brown (<i>Abt Global</i>) • Building Evidence and Overcoming Enrollment Challenges in the Youth at Risk of Homelessness Summative Evaluation Elizabeth Mugo (<i>Mathematica</i>) • Assessing Effectiveness in Nontraditional Ways: The Hopes and Challenges of the Chafee Strengthening Outcomes for Transition to Adulthood Evaluation Debra Rog (<i>Westat</i>)

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TIME	EVENT
4:15 p.m.	Building Evidence on Equitable Program Implementation Through Evaluating American Rescue Plan Investments  <i>Senate</i> The COVID-19 pandemic introduced an influx of new human services programs and changes to existing programs. This session will highlight ongoing federal evaluation efforts aimed at harnessing diverse data sources to generate rigorous evidence from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) investments into actionable evidence. Presenters will describe three distinct approaches to federal evaluation to share early insights on what strategies work to increase individuals' access to ARP funds and demonstrate how agencies are building evidence on ARP program delivery and effectiveness. This session will be moderated by Elana Safran (<i>U.S. General Services Administration</i>). • Increasing Access to Minnesota Child Care Stabilization Base Grants Stephanie Permut (<i>U.S. General Services Administration</i>) • Conducting a National Evaluation of American Rescue Plan Programs Christal Ramos (<i>American Institutes for Research</i>) • Evaluating ARP Investments in WIC Modernization and Innovation Carol Dreibelbis (<i>U.S. Department of Agriculture</i>)

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TIME	EVENT
4:15 p.m.	Race, Ethnicity, and the TANF Program: Connections With Policy, Level of Need, and Caseworker Perspectives   <i>South American A/B</i> This session shares findings from different analyses and methodological approaches to assessing racial and ethnic differences for the TANF program. The first presentation will share findings from an analysis conducted by ACF's Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Human Services Analysis Execution Project (RED-X) focusing on how financial need for TANF cash assistance varies by race and ethnicity. The second presentation will share findings from RED-X exploring the extent to which different racial and ethnic groups are living in states with more stringent or more expansive policies. Using survey data from TANF and income assistance practitioners from 11 states, the third presentation will share findings about how state and local level implementation affects uptake of TANF basic cash assistance among Latino families. Kim Clum (<i>Administration for Children and Families</i>) will moderate the session. • Variations by Race and Ethnicity in the Degree of Financial Need for TANF Cash Aid Linda Giannarelli (<i>Urban Institute</i>) • How Race and Ethnicity Relate to TANF Policy Environments: Evidence From Simulation-Based Policy Indices Ilham Dehry (<i>Urban Institute</i>) • Social Assistance Policies and Practices and Latino Families: The Lens of Income-Benefit Workers Lisa Gennetian (<i>Duke University</i>)

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TIME	EVENT
4:15 p.m.	Mobility Mentoring for Youth and Young Parents: What We’ve Learned and Where We’re Headed  <i>Federal A</i> Research demonstrates that youth—and particularly young parents—experience poverty at a disproportionate rate. While many social service organizations have recognized the critical need for intervention to support youth and young parents’ family and economic stability, there are many challenges they must address to create programs that effectively engage, retain, and serve the unique needs of these populations. This moderated discussion will share findings from EMPATH’s Youth and Young Parents Learning Project, which is a qualitative effort aimed at understanding adaptations of EMPATH’s Mobility Mentoring coaching model to promote well-being and enhanced economic opportunity for youth, identifying unique challenges faced by these populations, examining how those challenges impact the coaching process, and amplifying empirically-backed strategies that work. Quanic Fullard (<i>Annie E. Casey Foundation</i>) will serve as the moderator for the session. • Tisha Mender (<i>Roots and Wings</i>) • Dianna Jones (<i>Nebraska Children’s Home Society</i>) • Natalie Veilleux (<i>Economic Mobility Pathways</i>)
4:15 p.m.	Evaluating Sectoral Training Programs With an Eye Towards Employer Engagement  <i>Federal B</i> Job training programs designed to address unemployment, raise wages, and increase economic mobility have evolved, placing greater emphasis on sectoral approaches and career pathways to support workers with low incomes and meet employers’ demands for a skilled workforce. Understanding the impact of such approaches in promoting upward mobility in the labor market is important for program improvement efforts. This session will share findings from evaluations of training programs and career pathways initiatives with special attention to sectoral training and employer engagement. Suchitra (Suchi) Akmanchi (<i>U.S. Department of Labor</i>) will moderate the session. • The America’s Promise Job-Driven Grant Program Evaluation Ariella Spitzer (<i>Mathematica</i>) • Impacts of the Ready to Work Program on Employment and Earnings of the Long-Term Unemployed Jane Herr (<i>Abt Global</i>) • Equity Considerations Around Employer Engagement Deena Schwartz (<i>Abt Global</i>)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

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TIME	EVENT
4:15 p.m.	Effects of COVID-19 Era TANF Program Changes on Caseload Dynamics   <i>Statler A/B</i> TANF is designed to provide cash assistance and other supports to promote economic self-sufficiency among families and children with low incomes. As part of the U.S. safety net, TANF must be responsive to social and economic shifts, such as COVID-19, that could significantly impact those in the program. To better understand how TANF has assisted its participants over time, this session will feature three presentations that examine caseload dynamics and employment patterns for TANF recipients. Liza Rodler (<i>Administration for Children and Families/VPD Government Solutions</i>) will moderate this session. • Did TANF Policy Changes During COVID-19 Matter? An Examination of Caseload Size by Race and Ethnicity <i>Andrea Hetling (Rutgers University)</i> • Spell and Exit Patterns of Virginia's TANF Clients Using Survival Analysis <i>Heeju Jang-Paulsen (Virginia Department of Social Services)</i> • Relationship of TANF Work Activity Participation to Employment Patterns Before, During, and After TANF <i>Fang Cheng (New York State Office of Temporary Disability Assistance)</i>
5:30 p.m.	RECS SOCIAL <i>Statler Lounge (Hotel Lobby Bar)</i> Join us after the first day of the conference for informal networking. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

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TIME EVENT

6:30 a.m. LOCAL AREA WALK

Meet in Hotel Lobby (near front doors)

This morning walk is a chance to get outside, meet new colleagues, and see some Washington, DC landmarks. A member of the RECS logistics team will guide the group through the route, which will be approximately 2 miles in length. This is an informal event, and sign-ups are not required. Please meet in the hotel lobby no later than 6:30 a.m. to join. If you'd prefer a morning run, a member of the RECS logistics team will be available to guide a running group on a route that will be approximately 3 miles in length.

*Note: By joining this voluntary event, you agree that your participation is solely is at your own risk. The conference staff, funding agency, and venue will not be liable or responsible for any losses, injury, or damages incurred.

8:45 a.m. PLENARY SESSION **LIVE**

LGBTQIA2S+ Inclusivity and Equity in Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education Programs

Presidential Ballroom

The number of youth and adults in the United States who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual, or two-spirit (LGBTQIA2S+) has increased substantially in recent years. Research also indicates that LGBTQIA2S+ youth and adults have higher rates of adverse mental health outcomes than their cisgender, heterosexual peers. This plenary will focus on how healthy marriage and relationship education (HMRE) programs are well-positioned to support the healthy development and relationships of LGBTQIA2S+ youth and adults. **Meghan Heffron** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will share discussant remarks on the presentations and translate the lessons on inclusivity for LGBTQIA2S+ populations to work being done by the ACF Office of Family Assistance and to the broader ACF portfolio. **Samantha (Sam) Illangasekare** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate the session.

- **Serving LGBTQ+ Youth and Adults in HMRE Programs: Findings from the FRAMING Research Project**
Julia Alamillo (*Mathematica*)
- **Implementing Youth's Feedback to Enhance Inclusion in Youth Relationship Education Programming**
Je'Kylynn Steen (*Auburn University*)
- **Transforming the TOGETHER Program to Serve LGBTQ+ Couples**
Mariana Falconier (*University of Maryland*)

10:00 a.m. BREAK

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10:15 a.m.	CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

	Using the Program Manager's Guide to Evaluation: A Training for Evaluators and Practitioners LIVE

Presidential Ballroom

This session will explore recent updates to ACF's Program Manager's Guide to Evaluation (PMGE) completed by Westat in coordination with ACF. Presenters will describe the process used to revise and update the PMGE and provide an overview of the updates made, which are aimed at further supporting effective and relevant program evaluations of human services programs. Session participants will have the opportunity to apply PMGE tools designed for use across a broad range of audiences who have different roles and engagement with evaluation. The session will also highlight a major addition to the new PMGE edition: providing guidance and examples of how to bring a culturally responsive and equitable evaluation lens to all stages of program evaluation. This session will be moderated by **Debra Wright** (Westat).

- **The Process for Updating OPRE's Program Manager's Guide to Evaluation**
Allison Hyra (Westat)
- **Using the Program Manager's Guide to Evaluation to Design, Conduct, and Communicate About Program Evaluation**
Amanda Hare (Westat)
- **Culturally Responsive and Equitable Evaluation Guidance in the Program Manager's Guide to Evaluation**
Lila Gutuskey (Westat)

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TIME	EVENT

10:15 a.m.	Approaches to Culturally Responsive Programming and Evaluation With Indigenous Communities

Senate

ACF and other government agencies aim to engage with and better support indigenous communities, but many federal programs need help in adequately culturally tailoring programming to American Indian and Alaska Native communities. This session will unpack what it means to be culturally responsive when evaluating programs with Indigenous communities. The first presentation will discuss research with a program that aims to increase employment stability among Indigenous communities by addressing trauma and toxic stress. The second presentation will discuss findings from a qualitative study of how Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting programs planned for implementation when evidence of effectiveness for home visiting models was insufficient, absent, or lacked relevance for Indigenous communities. The session will conclude with a discussion about implications for more equitable evaluation with Indigenous communities across ACF's portfolio. **Niki Denmark** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate the session, and **Brent Huggins** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will provide discussant remarks.

- Alleviating Crisis Brain: The Key to Upward Mobility**
 Chadwick Ratigan (*OneHeart*)
- Understanding Home Visiting Implementation Planning Across Diverse American Indian and Alaska Native Contexts**
 Aleta Meyer (*Administration for Children and Families*)

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TIME	EVENT

10:15 a.m.	Putting Data to Work: Transforming a Program Monitoring Dataset Into a Resource for Evidence-Building

South American A/B

Government agencies collect vast amounts of administrative data that sometimes go underused due to its primary role in program operations, rather than research. Efforts to transform such data into research-ready formats can be complicated by various technical, legal, and data security issues. This session features presentations that focus on how a multidisciplinary team addressed these challenges via deliberate federal investments. The first presentation will outline the transformative efforts of the ACF TANF Employment Project (TEP) to convert the administrative data of the TANF program into an evidence-based tool. The second presentation will delve into the creation of longitudinal TANF data and documentation. And, the final presentation will discuss how the integration of TANF and National Directory of New Hires data can yield significant program insights while ensuring secure and responsible data handling. **Nicole Deterding** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate the session.

- **Harnessing Administrative Data: The TANF Employment Project**
Richard Hendra (*MDRC*)
- **Developing a National, Longitudinal Collection of TANF Data**
Robert Goerge (*Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago*)
- **Integrating TANF and NDNH Data to Unlock Program Insights: The TEP Approach**
Johanna Walter (*MDRC*)

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TIME	EVENT
10:15 a.m.	Improving Youth Access to Economic Opportunity: Leveraging Learning Partnerships for Program Innovation and Scale  <i>Federal A</i> The rate of youth disconnecting from school and/or work has resurged in the last three years, with over 4 million youth needing greater connection supports. The cost to these young people and their communities include poor physical, social, mental, and economic outcomes. This session will examine place-based learning partnerships that look for innovative ways of amplifying the reach of existing programs and investments to improve youth access to economic opportunity and share lessons from those efforts. Christina Yancey (<i>American Institutes for Research</i>) will moderate the session. - Increasing Youth Use of Workforce Services Through Behavioral Nudges: Lessons from Ohio Samia Amin (<i>American Institutes for Research</i>) - Leveraging Coaching Models and Leadership Academy to Improve Youth Programming Jonathan McCay (<i>Mathematica</i>) - Innovating to Find and Support Opportunity Youth: One Place-Based Intermediary Service Model Rachel Cook (<i>American Institutes for Research</i>)

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10:15 a.m.	Integrating Financial Capability with Employment and Training Programs

Federal B

Adults with low and moderate incomes face many economic challenges that are worsened by limited knowledge of financial concepts and access to financial products and services. Delivering financial capability interventions through employment and training (E&T) programs can improve economic outcomes for households with low incomes by building families' financial skills and knowledge and expanding their access to financial resources. This session will share findings from ACF's Integrating Financial Capability and Employment Services (InFin) project, building evidence about the extent, forms, and practices of integrating services. The first presentation will describe the overall findings of the study while the second presentation will focus on financial capability services offered by employers to employees. Finally, the third presentation will be a discussion by a program staff member who participated in the study highlighting notable components of their financial education program. **Sam Elkin** (*MEF Associates*) will moderate the session.

- Understanding how Financial Capability Interventions are Provided in Employment and Training Contexts**
 Ashweeta Patnaik (*MEF Associates*)
- Supporting Employees Through Financial Capability Services: A Scan of Employer-Based Programs**
 Cassandra Martinchek (*Urban Institute*)
- A Practitioner's Perspective on Delivering Financial Capability Interventions**
 Jenay Smith (*Drexel Building Wealth and Health Network*)

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10:15 a.m.	Estimating How Contextual Changes Affect Program Impacts: Lessons from Conducting RCTs During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Statler A/B

This session will explore the challenges of conducting randomized controlled trials (RCTs) in human services programs during major contextual changes, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. It will focus on how such changes can impact the outcomes of long-duration studies which are also influenced by factors like shifting labor markets and new policies. The speakers will highlight the different analytical strategies they used to understand and mitigate the effects of external environmental changes on human services program evaluations. The session will conclude with a moderated discussion across the presentations facilitated by **Lauren Deutsch Stanton** (*Administration for Children and Families*).

- Career Pathways During COVID: Evidence From the Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG 2.0)**
 Daniel Litwok (*Abt Global*)
- How the COVID-19 Pandemic Influenced the Impacts of Employment Coaching for TANF and Related Populations**
 Owen Schochet (*Mathematica*)
- How Did the COVID-19 Pandemic Affect the Education and Employment of Young People with Disabilities?**
 Ankita Patnaik (*Mathematica*)

11:30 a.m.	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

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12:15 p.m.	LUNCH SYMPOSIUM

Presidential Ballroom

The Side Hustle Safety Net: A Short-Term Solution with Longer-Term Challenges

In many ways, gig work can seem like the perfect answer to economic challenges. There are low barriers to entry: workers who sign up today, may be working tomorrow. The hours are flexible and can be scheduled around school or family emergencies. And on some platforms, workers can opt to be paid almost instantly. But the gloss of technology often hides the true impact of this work on workers, including the physical and financial risks, and the challenges of leaving this short-term work for longer-term stability. During this lunchtime session, **Alexandrea Ravenelle** (*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill/ Russell Sage Foundation*) will discuss her research on the gig economy and its workers, as well as the long-term challenges that highlight opportunities for human services programs and government support for individuals and families with low incomes.

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TIME EVENT

1:15 p.m. EMERGING SCHOLARS LIGHTNING TALKS AND POSTER SESSION

The Emerging Scholars Lightning Talks and Poster Session will feature breakout sessions with 3-minute lightning talks on work by the Emerging Scholars being featured at RECS 2024. Following the lightning talks, join the scholars in the poster display area to browse the posters, chat with the scholars about their work, and mingle with fellow conference attendees.

Poster Session: Lightning Talks I

South American A/B

Moderator: **Layefa Leonard-Emuren** (*Administration for Children and Families/Jefferson Consulting Group*)

- Characterizing Families Experiencing Homelessness Across a Midwestern State: Housing Stability Following Enrollment In Rapid Re-Housing** 
 Gina May (*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*)
- The Role of Coaches as Social Capital in Securing Resources and Opportunities for Low-Income Families** 
 Sam Stragand (*University of Michigan*)
- Patterns of Family Economic Well-Being Among American Indian and Alaska Native Families with Young Children** 
 Chelsea Wesner (*Tribal Early Childhood Research Center/University of Colorado-Anschutz Medical Campus*)
- The Effects of Agency Frames on Resource Allocation: Moral Motives for Giving and Receiving Aid** 
 Ilana Brody (*University of California, Los Angeles*)
- Conceptual Framework for the Relationship Between Welfare and Self-Sufficiency Programs/Policies and Family Social Well-Being** 
 Davis Straske (*Mathematica*)
- How Does Prosocial Identity Protect Juveniles from Reoffending? Testing Core Components of a Conceptual Model** 
 Luyi Jian (*University of California, Berkeley*)
- Vocational Training and Low-Wage Workers' Mobility: Job Ladders and the Match Between Training and Jobs** 
 Michael Schultz (*NORC at the University of Chicago*)

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TIME	EVENT
1:15 p.m.	Poster Session: Lightning Talks II LIVE <i>Presidential Ballroom</i> Moderator: Liza Rodler (<i>Administration for Children and Families/VPD Government Solutions</i>) - Spillover Effect of State-Sponsored Surveillance: Implications for Parental Engagement in Home Visiting Services  Jane Leer (<i>Boston College</i>) - Engaging Fathers: A Collaborative and Trauma-Informed Approach to Enhance Father Involvement in Rochester, NY  Michael Chen (<i>Coordinated Care Services, Inc.</i>) - Strengthening Parenting, Relationships, and Economic Stability Among Urban Fathers: A Descriptive Evaluation  Saloni Sharma (<i>Midwest Evaluation and Research</i>) - Effectively Engaging Foster and Former Foster Youth in L.A. County's Workforce System: A Case Study  Skye Allmang (<i>Social Policy Research Associates</i>) - Engaging Community Authentically: Centering Young Parent Experiences  Kate Westaby (<i>University of Wisconsin-Madison/Urban Institute</i>) - Financial Matters: Housing Trajectories and Eviction During the Transition From Foster Care to Adulthood  Brenda Tully (<i>University of California, Los Angeles</i>) - Taking Action: A Look at Culturally Responsive Program Evaluation During COVID-19  Milira Cox (<i>Montclair State University</i>)
2:30 p.m.	BREAK

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2:45 p.m. **PLENARY SESSION**

Understanding Whole-Family Well-Being: Looking Beyond Employment and Earnings **LIVE**

Presidential Ballroom

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) promotes the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities by providing federal leadership, partnership, and resources for the delivery of a range of human services. Many state, local, and tribal human services programs have a similar mission to support the well-being of the populations they serve. Traditionally, earnings and employment outcomes have served as some of the primary indicators to assess the success of services and programs in advancing family well-being. However, increasingly there is recognition among policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and the broader field that well-being is a complex and multi-faceted concept—it can encompass a range of non-economic outcome domains; be influenced by structural, household, social, and individual factors; and look different across cultures, communities, and contexts. To explore this complexity, this plenary will feature ongoing research on how well-being is conceptualized in three different human services settings that support individuals and families—Indigenous communities, welfare and self-sufficiency programs, and home visiting programs—and from the perspective of an individual with lived experience as a human services program participant and as a current practitioner in an early childhood education program. **Jennifer Brooks** (*Jennifer L Brooks, LLC/University of Chicago*) will moderate this session.

- **Conceptualizing Family Economic Well-Being in Indigenous Communities**
Chelsea Wesner (*Tribal Early Childhood Research Center/University of Colorado-Anschutz Medical Campus*)
- **Whole Family Well-Being in the Context of Home Visiting and Welfare and Self-Sufficiency Programs**
Emily Sama-Miller (*Mathematica*)
- **Bridging Data and Action to Support Well-Being**
Ealasha Vaughner (*Clayton Early Learning*)

4:00 p.m. **BREAK**

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4:15 p.m.	CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Employment Coaching: Giving People with Low Incomes More Autonomy as They Work Toward Economic Security **LIVE**

Presidential Ballroom

Recently, some TANF and other employment programs have replaced traditional case management with a fundamentally different approach—employment coaching, which involves trained staff working collaboratively with participants to help them set individualized goals. By giving participants more autonomy, coaching may increase participants’ motivation, leading to participants taking action steps that better reflect their needs and learning how to set and work toward goals independently. This session will discuss assessments of employment coaching from diverse perspectives. It will include findings from an ACF-sponsored evaluation of the effectiveness of four employment coaching programs, a video presentation of study participants’ perspectives on coaching, and a facilitated discussion with managers from two of the coaching programs participating in the evaluation. The session will conclude with an interactive discussion among all panelists. **Elizabeth Karberg** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate the session.

- **The Effectiveness of Employment Coaching for Adults with Low Incomes**
Quinn Moore (*Mathematica*)
- **Sharing the Voices of Participants in Four Employment Coaching Programs Serving Families with Low Incomes**
Quinn Moore (*Mathematica*)
- **An Interactive Discussion with Employment Coaching Program Leaders**
Michelle Derr (*The Adjacent Possible*)
Tara LaMont (*Jefferson County Department of Human Services*)
Page Humphrey (*Iowa Department of Human Rights*)

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TIME	EVENT
4:15 p.m.	Building Evidence on Employment Programs: New Tools and Initiatives From the Pathways to Work Evidence Clearinghouse   <i>Senate</i> The ACF Pathways to Work Evidence Clearinghouse conducts systematic evidence reviews of programs that aim to improve employment-related outcomes of individuals with low incomes and rates the effectiveness of each program. In addition, Pathways to Work develops an array of resources that synthesize and summarize the existing evidence base for its core audiences including policymakers, program providers, and researchers. This session will provide an overview of Pathways to Work's new strategies to reach its core audiences; introduce Evidence Gap Maps, a new tool for researchers available on the Pathways to Work website; and preview additional forthcoming resources. In addition, the session will include a policymaker's reflections on Pathways to Work's utility for both practitioners and policymakers. Clare DiSalvo (<i>Administration for Children and Families/VPD Government Solutions</i>) will moderate the session. • Introducing the Next Generation of the Pathways to Work Clearinghouse Allan Porowski (<i>Abt Global</i>) • Overview of the Pathways to Work Evidence Gap Map Tool Siri Warkentien (<i>Administration for Children and Families</i>) • Using Pathways to Work: A Policymaker Perspective Lisa Salazar (<i>City of Los Angeles Youth Development Department</i>)

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TIME	EVENT
4:15 p.m.	Tools and Approaches for Community Engagement in Research and Evaluation at the Federal Level  <i>South American A/B</i> Community engagement is emphasized as vital for enhancing federal research and evaluation, aiming to address historical exclusions and rebuild trust for more relevant and rigorous outcomes. This session will highlight three federal examples of integrating community engagement and lived experience into research initiatives. These presentations collectively showcase various community engagement strategies and offer insights applicable to diverse research projects, fostering more responsive and equitable government initiatives. Elsa Falkenburger (<i>Urban Institute</i>) will moderate the session. • REFRAME: Prioritizing Lived Expertise to Empower Black Individuals, Youth, and Couples in Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Programs Sundjata Aya (<i>MEF Associates</i>) • Integrating Community Engagement into Institutions: A Case Study of a Community Advisory Board within OPRE Joey Martin (<i>CAMPE Community Advisory Board/Urban Institute</i>) • Partnering with Lived Experts to Advance the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Equity Efforts Madison Dao-Whitten (<i>ICF/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</i>)

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TIME	EVENT
4:15 p.m.	Supplemental Supports for People Experiencing Poverty   <i>Federal A</i> Many individuals and families with low incomes receiving cash assistance or other government benefits do not receive enough support to address all their unmet needs. Additional supports – like transportation or transitional benefits – can help individuals and families achieve better health and well-being. This session will provide evidence on the effects of supplemental supports on families’ outcomes available to individuals receiving government benefits in Pennsylvania and Tennessee. The research to be discussed includes a field experiment in Pennsylvania that provided discounted transportation fares to working-age SNAP recipients and their children, and a program in Tennessee that provides transitional benefits and wraparound services to TANF participants to help them navigate challenges associated with the benefits cliff. Marie Lawrence (<i>Administration for Children and Families</i>) will moderate the session and Rachel Black (<i>Aspen Institute</i>) will provide discussant remarks. • The Effects of Public Transportation Fare Discounts for SNAP Recipients: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment Seth Chizeck (<i>Carnegie Mellon University</i>) • The Tennessee Opportunity Pilot Initiative: Evaluation Design and Implementation of Pilot Programs Offering Care Coordination, Coaching, and Transitional Benefits Carly Morrison (<i>MEF Associates</i>)

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4:15 p.m.	Implementation and Impact of a High School Internship Program in Career and Technical Education

Federal B

The Advanced Internship Program (AIP) aims to promote upward economic mobility by preparing high school students for in-demand jobs and equipping students for post-secondary education and the workforce through work experience, professional networking and mentorship opportunities, and career coaching. Very limited research exists using both survey and administrative data to explore the impacts of this type of focused work-based learning program on student success during and after high school. This session will feature a program administrator responsible for program design and implementation, a researcher responsible for evaluating program outcomes, and an employer with lived program experience. Presenters will share initial findings from an impact evaluation of AIP on measures of college and career readiness, as well as challenges and lessons learned during program implementation. **Jabari Wilson** (*Air Force Office of Scientific Research*) will provide discussant remarks, and **Anamita Gall** (*The Lab @ DC*) will moderate the session.

- Designing, Implementing, and Strengthening an Innovative High School Internship Program**
 Kilin Boardman-Schroyer (*Office of the State Superintendent, District of Columbia*)
- Initial Findings From an Impact Evaluation of the Advanced Internship Program**
 Amelie (Amsie) Hecht (*The Lab @ DC*)

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TIME	EVENT
4:15 p.m.	Adaptive Participatory and Convergent Research Methods to Evaluate TANF Programs   <i>Statler A/B</i> This session will describe innovative research methodologies and collaborative approaches used in evaluating program access and self-sufficiency outcomes for TANF participants in Michigan. The first presentation will address the use of participatory action research (PAR) to delve into the significance of TANF programs in supporting diverse populations. The second presentation will focus on the use of convergent mixed methods to examine TANF program barriers and participants' self-sufficiency. The final presentation will build upon the themes of PAR and convergent design while emphasizing the importance of involving policymakers and other interested parties in research. Sarita Barton (<i>Administration for Children and Families</i>) will moderate the session. • Using a Mixed-Methods Participatory Action Research Approach for Evaluating TANF Programs Stef Sloan (<i>University of Kansas</i>) • Iterative Convergent Design for Data-Driven Evidence on Self-Sufficiency Sushmita Samaddar (<i>University of Kansas</i>) • Policy Implications of an Adaptive Participatory and Convergence Research Design Owen Cox (<i>University of Kansas</i>)

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TIME	EVENT
4:15 p.m.	Family-Centered Information Portals: Aligning Public Systems to Increase Access to Services  <i>Pan American</i> Families often have difficulties navigating and accessing education, health care, and social support services that meet their unique needs because these large, complex systems are often unaligned or misaligned and operate in silos. To address this challenge, First Five SC links families to dozens of different publicly-funded programs and services in child care and early education, health and safety, parenting and family, food and nutrition, special needs and early intervention, and more. This session will describe the development and design process of First Five SC and discuss its effectiveness. Karen Oliver (<i>SC First Steps to School Readiness</i>) will moderate the session. • First Five SC – Centering Family Voice: A First-Person Account Tre' Tailor (<i>Family Voice Council of the Early Childhood Advisory Council</i>) • First Five SC – An Online Portal that Families Want, Need, and Deserve Beth Moore (<i>SC First Steps to School Readiness</i>) • First Five SC – Learning From the Data and Building the Evidence Chelsea Richard (<i>SC First Steps to School Readiness</i>)
5:30 p.m.	EARLY CAREER SOCIAL <i>Blackfinn DC - 1620 I St NW, Washington, DC 20006</i> Mix and mingle with the RECS Emerging Scholars, students, recent graduates, early career researchers, faculty, and other professionals on Thursday after the conference day has ended. This event is open to all RECS conference attendees. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

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TIME	EVENT
8:45 a.m.	CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS The Challenges and Benefits of Integrative Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Programming: Unique Perspectives From Three Veteran Grantees LIVE  <i>Presidential Ballroom</i> Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood (HMRP) programs share a common goal: to improve outcomes for lower income children by strengthening the relationships between and among their caregivers. However, despite the shared mission and umbrella funding source, HMRP programs are more commonly implemented by separate entities, which may be due in large part to the distinct needs of each type of program and population served, as well as the resources available for the implementing entity. In this session, the presenters, all veteran HMRP grantees, will discuss their experiences and lessons learned from implementing concurrent programs, and discuss implications for other programs that might not have the advantage of concurrent programming. Francesca Adler-Baeder (<i>Auburn University</i>) will serve as the moderator. • Supporting Bronx Families: An Integrative Approach to Family Strengthening That Emphasizes Mental and Emotional Health Traci Maynigo (<i>Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine</i>) • Lessons from the Nation's Longest Running Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Learning Lab Liz Shumate (<i>Public Strategies</i>) • Healthy Relationships Utah: Integrative Programming for Couples and Fathers Alan Hawkins (<i>Healthy Relationships Utah</i>)

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TIME	EVENT
8:45 a.m.	Pivoting During the Pandemic: How Human Services Made Immediate Changes With Lasting Effects  <i>Senate</i> The COVID-19 pandemic and accompanying economic shocks created unprecedented disruption and challenges for human services programs and the families they serve. However, in meeting the demands of the crisis, the pandemic also provided an opportunity for program staff to generate ideas and adopt novel practices and policies. This session will feature three presentations that focus on program innovations that TANF and child support programs have made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including Michigan's experience with making and sustaining changes while considering equity implications. Laura Peck (<i>MEF Associates</i>) will moderate the session. • Innovations in Child Support Programs Coming out of the Pandemic Lindsay Ochoa (<i>Mathematica</i>) • Innovations in TANF Programs Coming out of the Pandemic Laura Meyer (<i>MEF Associates</i>) • Leveraging Flexibilities to Improve Equity: Michigan's Pandemic Sarah Desmarais (<i>Michigan Department of Health and Human Services</i>)

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TIME	EVENT
8:45 a.m.	“Watch What Happens Live!” When We Use Evidence to Scale Relational-Based Work Across an Organization  <i>South American A/B</i> Inspired by the format of “Watch What Happens Live!”, this session will engage in a lively discussion about using research evidence to design, replicate, and scale relational-based work within a large community-based organization. Throughout the session, panelists will draw from their research and practical experience to underscore the critical role of positive relationships between youth and supportive staff in fostering youth development, self-sufficiency, and sustained engagement in social services programs. With a focus on addressing the youth mental health crisis, the session will explore how this work has evolved and been applied beyond traditional therapeutic settings. Justin Lipford (YMCA of San Diego County) will moderate this session. • From Research to Practice: How Relationship-Focused Research Informed a Transformative Approach to Social Service Programming Kristina Halmai-Gillan (YMCA of San Diego County) • Using Evidence to Inspire Large-Scale Organizational Change and Community Impact Krysta Esquivel (YMCA of San Diego County) • Implementing a Positive Youth Development Pilot Study for Children’s Mental Health Prevention Tiana Hopkins (YMCA of San Diego County)

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TIME	EVENT
8:45 a.m.	Family Outcomes and Perspectives on Recertifying Child Care Subsidies: Findings From Three States  <i>Federal A</i> Access to affordable child care is an essential support for alleviating poverty and supporting self-sufficiency among families with young children. Child care subsidies provided through the Child Care and Development Fund block grant are a critical tool for families trying to move out of poverty. Families must periodically recertify their eligibility for benefits, which can be an impediment to continuity of child care. This session will examine child care subsidy recertification processes across three states: Illinois, New Mexico, and Massachusetts. Sarah Blankenship (<i>Administration for Children and Families</i>) will moderate the session. - A Natural Experiment Evaluating the Effects of Subsidized Child Care on Subsidy Duration and Care Continuity Robert Goerge (<i>Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago</i>) - New Mexico Family Perspectives on Child Care Subsidy Reauthorization and Implications of Subsidy Loss Hailey Heinz (<i>University of New Mexico</i>) - Can Technology Reduce Administrative Burden in the Subsidy Program? Parents' Perspectives on Remote Service Delivery Pamela Joshi (<i>Brandeis University</i>)

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TIME	EVENT
8:45 a.m.	Labor Market Evidence Syntheses for Populations That Face Barriers to Employment  <i>Federal B</i> As a clearinghouse focused on labor market research, CLEAR has developed two new evidence syntheses that examine different aspects of the labor market for two populations that typically face barriers to employment. This session will examine programs and interventions aimed at improving labor market outcomes for individuals with disabilities and highlight findings from a rapid review of equitable COVID-19 labor market recovery strategies. Christopher McLaren (<i>U.S. Department of Labor</i>) will serve as the discussant and Siri Warkentien (<i>Administration for Children and Families</i>) will moderate the session. • Understanding and Applying Evidence in Disability Employment Policy Areas Christina DePeri (<i>ICF</i>) • Evidence on Equitable Labor Market Recovery Strategies in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic Shelley Osborn (<i>ICF</i>)
8:45 a.m.	Economic Support Policies and Family Outcomes   <i>Statler A/B</i> Economic support policies and programs such as food assistance, housing and childcare subsidies, and tax credits help reduce economic hardship and alleviate stress in families with low incomes, which may lead to increased family relationship quality. However, variations in availability, cost, consistency, and quality of economic support policies and programs may impact family outcomes. The presentations in this session will examine whether and how variations in these policies impact intimate partner relationships and rates of child maltreatment. Megan Reid (<i>Administration for Children and Families</i>) will moderate this session and Kelly Jedd McKenzie (<i>Administration for Children and Families</i>) will serve as the discussant. • Economic Support Policies and Family Violence Eric Thibodeau (<i>Prevent Child Abuse America</i>) • Making Space to Connect: Macroeconomic Factors, Cash Assistance, and Romantic Relationship Functioning in Low-Income Contexts Matthew (Matt) Ogan (<i>University of Missouri</i>)

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TIME	EVENT
8:45 a.m.	The Evaluation Evidence on HUD’s Employment and Self-Sufficiency Programs: What Have we Learned?  <i>Pan American</i> In the past 30 years, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) efforts to alleviate poverty have increasingly focused on promoting the self-sufficiency of housing assistance recipients. Although we know much about the successes and limitations of the programs that address this goal, the results are not as positive as anticipated. This session will examine findings from several recent HUD evaluations and explore the relevance of these findings to HUD’s and the nation’s efforts to address poverty. The panelists will also discuss how the strategies found in this work might be refined for greater success. Margaret Courtney (<i>U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development</i>) will moderate the session. • Lessons from 25 Years on the Effectiveness of Place-Based Jobs Plus Programs in Public Housing Nina Castells (<i>MDRC</i>) • The Evidence on the Effectiveness of the Family Self-Sufficiency Program for Housing Choice Voucher Households Nandita Verma (<i>MDRC</i>) • The Evaluation Evidence on HUD’s Employment and Self-Sufficiency Programs: What Have we Learned? Jayme Brown (<i>U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development</i>)
10:00 a.m.	BREAK

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TIME EVENT

10:15 a.m. CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Expanding Opportunities for Latino and Indigenous Student Parents Through Higher Education **LIVE**

Presidential Ballroom

Higher education is the main pathway to economic mobility for families in the United States, and many parents are motivated to gain educational experience beyond high school to improve their family's well-being. Parenting students are at risk of being pushed out of higher education by a system not tailored to their experiences and needs. To date, much research in this space has focused on the experiences of Black student parents, particularly Black single mothers, but much less attention has been paid to the experiences of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Latino student parents. This session will provide researchers and practitioners focused on understanding and meeting the needs of parenting students a research-based understanding of who American Indian, Alaska Native, and Latino student parents are, and the best practices to support them. **Kim Clum** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate this session.

- **State of the Research on American Indian, Alaska Native, and Latino Student Parents**
Zakia Redd (*Child Trends*)
- **Promoting Culturally Competent Educational Environments for American Indian and Alaska Native Student Parents**
Tiffany Gusbeth (*American Indian College Fund*)
- **Promoting Success for Latino Student Parents at Miami-Dade College**
Stephanie Silva (*Miami-Dade College*)

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TIME	EVENT

10:15 a.m.	Building Evidence Through Equity Assessments in Human Services

Senate

This session will provide insights for conducting equity assessments in human services policies and programs. Each of the speakers will describe how equity assessments can be used for gathering and analyzing evidence related to human services programs and policies to improve outcomes. The three presentations will progress from describing a tool to conduct equity assessments, sharing an equity assessment on childcare subsidy policy, and then describing how the use of equity assessments can be expanded in human services. To close, **Louie Gasper**, who is a Lived Experience Expert Partner in HHS's Equity Technical Assistance Center (ETAC), will serve as a discussant, exploring the potential for broader application of these equity assessments at state and local levels, with a specific focus on child welfare settings, drawing on strategies used in federal settings. The session will be moderated by **Deitra Scott** (*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*), a member of the ETAC team.

- Conducting Equity Assessments of Human Services Policies and Programs**
Sofi Martinez (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)
- Integrating Racial/Ethnic Equity into Policy Assessments: Application to Child Care Subsidy Policy**
Pamela Joshi (Brandeis University)

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TIME	EVENT
10:15 a.m.	Employment Programs for People with Substance Use Disorders: New Findings on Rural Implementation  <i>South American A/B</i> Addressing the needs of persons with substance use disorders (SUD) is a particularly critical effort in rural areas, where overdose death rates are higher than in urban counties. Employment is one of these key needs, as working can help people with SUD stay on the path to recovery. However, the evidence on effective approaches for integrating employment and treatment services is limited, particularly for rural areas. To fill this knowledge gap, this session will share findings from two studies of employment programs for people with SUD that include findings on rural service delivery. The first presentation will feature a study of a workforce development program in residential treatment facilities in rural Kentucky. The second presentation will share findings from a study of workforce system partnerships to address substance use, over half of which were implemented in rural areas. Finally, Stacey Ferrare (<i>Western Maryland Consortium</i>), a rural employment services provider, will share discussant remarks on both studies and how they resonate with her on-the-ground experience. Megan Millenky (<i>MDRC</i>) will moderate the session. • Findings from the Building Evidence on Employment Strategies (BEES) Addiction Recovery Care Implementation Study Hannah Engle (<i>Abt Global</i>) • Addressing Substance Use Through the Workforce System: Findings on Rural Implementation of SUPPORT Act Grants Hannah Betesh (<i>Abt Global</i>)

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TIME	EVENT
10:15 a.m.	Using Trauma-Informed Practices While Operating a Fatherhood Program or Conducting Fatherhood Research   <i>Federal A</i> Many participants in programs sponsored by state and federal offices of health and human services come from socioeconomically disadvantaged communities that are disproportionately exposed to and impacted by trauma. Traumatic experiences can have a negative impact on fathers' own functioning as well as on their children's well-being, particularly for men of color or those with low incomes. In recent years, policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and other social service providers have become more aware of how traumatic experiences can impact program participants. This session will present practical information and resources designed to support trauma-informed practices in operating a fatherhood program or conducting fatherhood research. Pooja Curtin (<i>Administration for Children and Families</i>) will moderate the session and Kenneth Braswell (<i>Fathers Incorporated</i>) will provide discussant remarks. • Practical Strategies for Applying Trauma-Informed Approaches into Fatherhood Programming Samantha Wulfsohn (<i>MDRC</i>) • Incorporating Principles of Trauma-Informed Care in Fatherhood Research Dara Lewis (<i>MDRC</i>)

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TIME	EVENT

10:15 a.m.	Understanding Measures of Success in Job Training Programs

Federal B

The Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) Program provided education and training to TANF recipients and other individuals with low incomes for occupations in the healthcare field that pay well and are expected to either experience labor shortages or be in high demand. The ACF Office of Family Assistance, which administered the HPOG Program, awarded a second round of five-year grants in 2015 (referred to as HPOG 2.0), which ended in 2021. This session will feature three individual presentations that explore different measures of success of the HPOG 2.0 Program. The first two presentations will draw from a national evaluation of the program focusing on intermediate-term impact findings and synthesizing participant and program staff perceptions of success using qualitative interview data. Then a former HPOG grantee will share her perspective on the various ways in which both rounds of HPOG program grants achieved success. **Nicole Constance** (*Administration for Children and Families*) will moderate the session.

- HPOG 2.0 Impacts on Participants After Three Years**
 Robin Koralek (*Abt Global*)
- Participant and Staff Perspectives on HPOG Program Success**
 Radha Roy (*Abt Global*)
- A View from the Field**
 Tiziana Rota (*SUNY Schenectady County Community College*)

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TIME	EVENT
10:15 a.m.	Helping Youth in Texas and California be READY4Life  <i>Statler A/B</i> READY4Life provides skill-building curricula, life coaching, and work-based learning experiences to high school students. This session will share early evaluation findings and lessons learned from two READY4Life grantees that began providing youth programming in 2021 in Houston, Texas, and Imperial County, California. These programs aim to promote well-being, resiliency, skill-building, and pathways to educational and career attainment among high school aged youth in their communities. Jennifer Leveille (<i>Midwest Evaluation</i>) will moderate the session. • A Practitioner’s Perspective on Serving At-Risk Youth Kristen Dohle (<i>AVANCE-Houston</i>) • Outcomes of Offering Survival Skills for Healthy Families Curriculum to Underserved Youth in Harris County Deepika Bhatt (<i>Midwest Evaluation and Research</i>) • Supporting Successful Transitions to Adulthood Among At-Risk Youth in Imperial Valley, California Chantelle Gerardo (<i>California ReadyforLIFE</i>)
11:30 a.m.	BREAK

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TIME	EVENT

11:45 a.m.	CLOSING REMARKS

Hilary Bruck (<i>Administration for Children and Families</i>)	

11:50 a.m.	PLENARY SESSION

Next Steps for Applying Behavioral Insights and Reducing Administrative Burden in Work Support Programs LIVE	

<i>Presidential Ballroom</i>	

In recognition of the many barriers that individuals can experience when accessing and participating in government programs, administrators at all levels are working to center clients' needs and improve program processes. Applied behavioral science brings together findings from psychology, economics, and other social sciences to inform changes to the design and implementation of programs with the aim of improving client outcomes. This plenary session will explore how behavioral insights can support program improvement—drawing from lessons learned across nearly 15 years of behavioral science research with work support programs—and address promising areas for further research. In this moderated discussion, researchers, government officials, and practitioners will discuss the past, present, and possible future directions for this work. Crystal Hall (<i>University of Washington</i>) will moderate this session.	

• Caitlin Anzelone (<i>MDRC</i>) • Marie-Ellen Ehounou (<i>U.S. Department of Labor</i>) • Tarimah Williams (<i>Washington State Department of Social and Health Services</i>)	

Networking Opportunities and Special Events

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

Lunchtime Panel Discussion: Careers in Research Related to Poverty, Family Economic Well-Being and Mobility, and Social Welfare

Wednesday, May 29, 12:30–1:15 p.m.

Presidential Ballroom

This panel discussion—which is open to all conference attendees—will feature panelists with experience working in federal and state government, research firms, and nonprofit organizations. They will provide insights and advice about career building in their respective fields and answer attendee questions.

Facilitated Roundtable Discussions

Wednesday, May 29, 3:00–4:00 p.m.

In-person roundtables held in rooms listed on pages 18–19.

Virtual roundtables are accessible via the RECS App and will be held on Zoom.

The roundtables will provide an opportunity for attendees to engage in interactive discussions on a range of family self-sufficiency- and social welfare-related topics.

RECS Social

Wednesday, May 29, 5:30 p.m.

Statler Lounge (Hotel Lobby Bar)

Join us after the first day of the conference for informal networking. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

THURSDAY, MAY 30

Local Area Walk or Run*

Thursday, May 30, 6:30–7:30 a.m.

Meet in Hotel Lobby (near front doors)

This morning walk is a chance to get outside, meet new colleagues, and see some Washington, DC landmarks. A member of the RECS logistics team will guide the group through the route, which will be approximately 2 miles in length. If you'd prefer a morning run, a member of the RECS logistics team will be available to guide a running group on a route that will be approximately 3 miles in length. This is an informal event, and sign-up is not required. Please meet in the hotel lobby no later than 6:30 a.m. to join the walk or run.

*Note: By joining this voluntary event, you agree that your participation is solely at your own risk. The conference staff, funding agency, and venue will not be liable or responsible for any losses, injury, or damages incurred.

Networking Opportunities and Special Events, *continued*

Lunchtime Symposium: The Side Hustle Safety Net: A Short-Term Solution with Longer-Term Challenges

Thursday, May 30, 12:15–1:00 p.m.

Presidential Ballroom

In many ways, gig work can seem like the perfect answer to economic challenges. There are low barriers to entry: workers who sign up today, may be working tomorrow. The hours are flexible, and can be scheduled around school or family emergencies. And on some platforms, workers can opt to be paid almost instantly. But the gloss of technology often hides the true impact of this work on workers including the physical and financial risks, and the challenges of leaving this short-term work for longer-term stability. During this lunchtime session, **Alexandrea Ravenelle** (*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill/Russell Sage Foundation*) will discuss her research on the gig economy and its workers, as well as the long-term challenges that highlight opportunities for human services programs and government support for individuals and families with low incomes.

Emerging Scholars Lightning Talks and Poster Session

Thursday, May 30, 1:15–2:30 p.m.

Lightning Talks: Presidential Ballroom and South American A/B

Posters Display Area: Upper Lobby Hallway outside of Federal A/Federal B

The Emerging Scholars Lightning Talks and Poster Session will feature two concurrent breakout sessions with 3-minute lightning talks on work by the Emerging Scholars being featured at RECS 2024. Following the lightning talks, join the scholars in the poster display area to browse the posters, chat with the scholars about their work, and mingle with fellow conference attendees.

Early Career Social

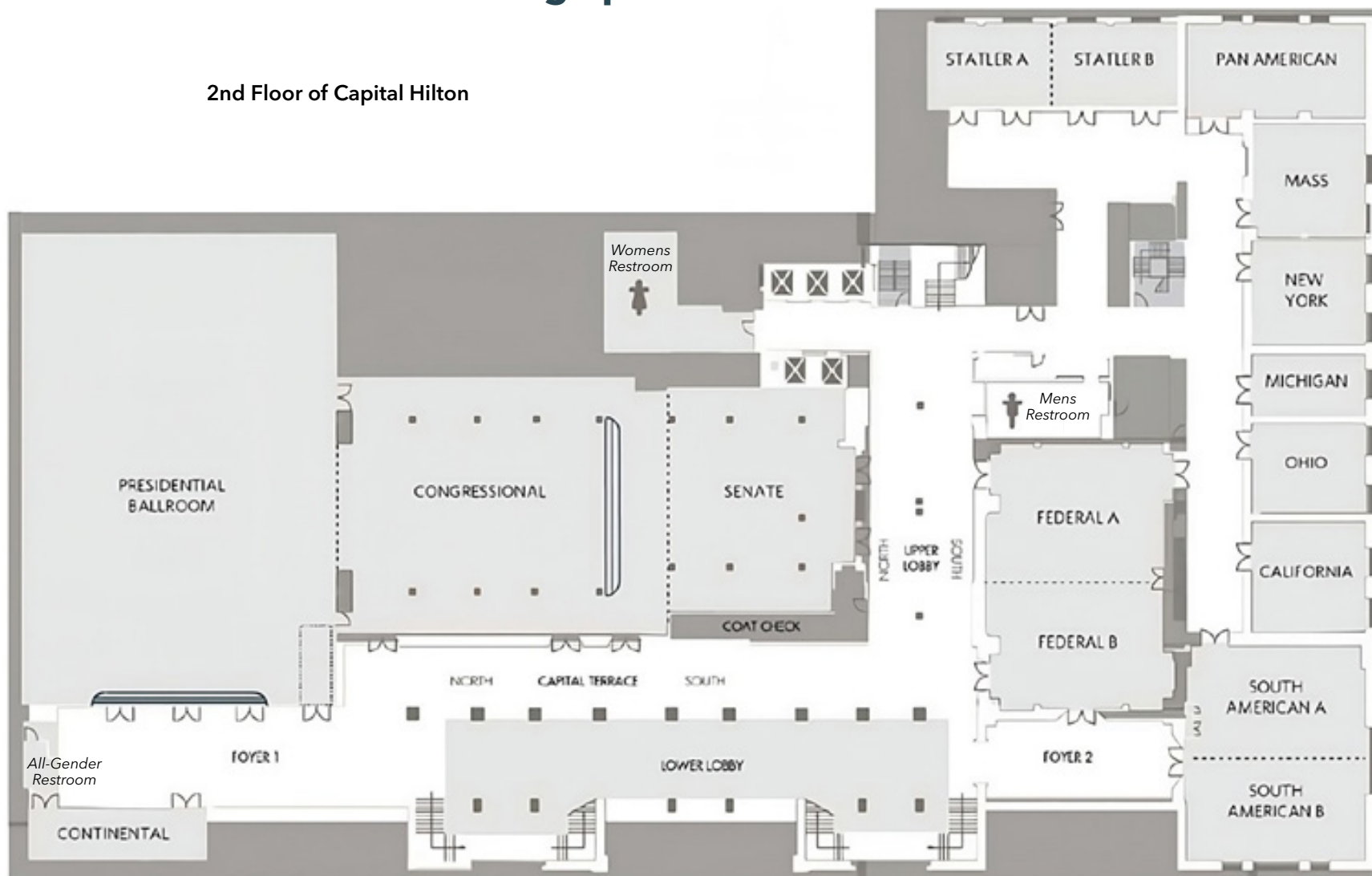
Thursday, May 30, 5:30 p.m.

Blackfinn DC - 1620 I St NW, Washington, DC 20006

Mix and mingle with RECS Emerging Scholars, students, recent graduates, early career researchers, faculty, and other professionals on Thursday after the conference day has ended. This event is open to all RECS conference attendees. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

RECS 2024 Meeting Space

2nd Floor of Capital Hilton



Local Area Guide

This is a list of coffee shops, quick service, and table service restaurant options located near the Capital Hilton (1001 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036), with distances from the hotel noted. Coffee shops and restaurants that accept mobile orders are marked with an asterisk (*).

To view the local area guide map, scan the QR code or access the link below:



<https://maps.app.goo.gl/km3xREkXdb2pSKe19>

Coffee Shops

Peets Coffee (\$)*	Blue Bottle Coffee (\$\$)*	Gregory's Coffee (\$\$)*	The Coffee Bar (\$\$)*
1101 17th St. NW	1100 15th St. NW Space #6	1000 Vermont Ave NW	1200 17th St. NW #150
Washington, DC 20036	Washington, DC 20005	Washington, DC 20005	Washington, DC 20036
0.1 miles away	0.2 miles away	0.2 miles away	0.3 miles away
Pret A Manger (\$\$)*	DUA DC Coffee (\$)	Starbucks (\$\$)*	La Colombe Coffee Roasters (\$\$)
1701 K St. NW	923 15th St. NW	1455 K St NW	I St. NW
Washington, DC 20006	Washington, DC 20005	Washington, DC 20005	Washington, DC 20006
0.1 miles away	0.2 miles away	0.2 miles away	0.3 miles away
City Place Café (\$)*	Sunrise Café (\$)	Compass Coffee (\$)	
1101 17th St. NW	1102 17th St. NW	1401 I St. NW	
Washington, DC 20036	Washington, DC 20036	Washington, DC 20005	
0.1 miles away	0.2 miles away	0.3 miles away	

Quick Service

Roti Mediterranean Bowls. Salads. Pitas. (\$) * 1629 K St. NW Washington, DC 20006 0.1 miles away	Arepa Zone (\$) * 1121 14th St. NW Washington, DC 20005 0.3 miles away	Shake Shack (\$\$) * 1216 18th St. NW Washington, DC 20036 0.4 miles away	Nando's PERi-PERi (\$\$) * 1210 18th St. NW Washington, DC 20036 0.5 miles away
Pret A Manger (\$\$) * 1701 K St. NW Washington, DC 20006 0.1 miles away	Sushi Snob (\$) * 1721 M St. NW, Washington, DC 20036 0.3 miles away	McDonald's (\$) * 750 17th St. NW Washington, DC 20006 0.4 miles away	Chick-fil-A (\$) * 1214 18th St. NW Washington, DC 20036 0.5 miles away
Subway (\$) * 1712 L St. NW Suite 112 Washington, DC 20036 0.2 miles away	Five Guys (\$\$) * 1400 I St. NW, Washington, DC 20005 0.3 miles away	DC Pizza (\$) * 1103 19th St. NW Washington, DC 20036 0.4 miles away	Wawa (\$) * 1111 19th St. NW Washington, DC 20036 0.5 miles away
Devon & Blakely (\$\$) * Southern Building, 803 15th St. NW Washington, DC 20005 0.3 miles away			

Table Service

G Street Food (\$) * 1030 15th St. NW Washington, DC 20005 0.1 miles away	Kellari Taverna (\$\$\$) 1700 K St. NW Washington, DC 20006 0.2 miles away	Iron Gate Restaurant (\$\$\$) 1734 N St. NW Washington, DC 20036 0.5 miles away
Mazi DC (\$\$) * 1518 K St. NW Washington, DC 20005 0.1 miles away	Le DeSales (\$\$) * 1725 Desales St. NW Washington, DC 20036 0.3 miles away	Boqueria Dupont (\$\$) * 1837 M St. NW Washington, DC 20036 0.5 miles away
Georgia Brown's (\$\$) * 950 15th St. NW Washington, DC 20005 0.1 miles away	Pisco y Nazca Ceviche Gastrobar (\$\$) * 1823 L St. NW Washington, DC 20036 0.4 miles away	Fava Pot* 1817 M St. NW Washington, DC 20036 0.5 miles away
P.J. Clarke's DC (\$\$) * 1600 K St. NW Washington, DC 20006 0.1 miles away	Tabard Inn Restaurant (\$\$) 1739 N St. NW Washington, DC 20036 0.5 miles away	Founding Farmers DC (\$\$) * 1924 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20006 0.6 miles away
McCormick & Schmick's Seafood & Steaks (\$\$\$) * 1652 K St. NW Washington, DC 20006 0.1 miles away		

Download the RECS App

The RECS App brings together all conference information in one place. It includes the agenda, speaker information and session materials, virtual exhibitor information, and much more. Livestreamed and virtual-only sessions are accessible only from the RECS App. Based on how you are attending the conference (in person or virtually), please follow the instructions below to access the app.

In-Person Attendees:

We encourage all in-person attendees to download the RECS App to your mobile device to easily access all conference information and receive timely updates throughout the event.

Access the RECS App:

1. Scan the QR code below and download the EventMobi App.
2. Open the EventMobi App and enter the event code: **RECS2024**
3. When prompted, enter the email address you used for RECS registration.
4. When you first log into the app, you'll be prompted to enter a password. If you attended Virtual RECS 2022, you may already have an account and will need to reset your password.

Apple App Store



Google Play



Virtual Attendees and In-Person Attendees Who Want to Access Virtual Content:

The desktop version of the RECS App is the best way to access livestreamed and virtual-only sessions.

Access the RECS Desktop Site:

1. Please visit <https://eventmobi.com/recs2024/>.
2. When prompted, enter the email address you used for RECS registration to log in.
3. When you first log into the app, you'll be prompted to enter a password. If you attended Virtual RECS 2022, you may already have an account and will need to reset your password.

Please Join Us!

Research & Evaluation Conference on Self-Sufficiency (RECS) - RESEARCH USE STUDY



What is the RECS Research Use Study?

- The Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has contracted with American Institutes for Research (AIR) to conduct a pilot study with RECS attendees.
- The Research Use Study aims to develop an in-depth understanding of RECS attendees' goals for participating in the conference, their experiences at RECS, and whether and how they use information shared at RECS after the conference.
- Findings from the study will help OPRE identify strategies for improving future attendees' learning experience at the conference.

Who is AIR?

The [American Institutes for Research \(AIR\)](#) is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization that conducts behavioral and social science research and delivers technical assistance to solve some of the most urgent challenges in the U.S. and around the world.

What does the study involve?

- As a part of this project, AIR is inviting RECS 2024 attendees to join a proposed focus group* to share your conference experiences and how you use what you learn at RECS. [Your feedback is critical to identifying ways to improve the conference for future attendees.](#)

What will the focus group involve?



Focus groups would be conducted virtually via Zoom.



Focus groups are expected to last up to 90 minutes.



AIR plans to offer each focus group participant a \$100 gift card as a thank you for your time.



During the focus group, AIR plans to ask about:

- Your goals for attending RECS 2024
- Your experiences at RECS 2024
- If and how you have used what you learned at RECS 2024

Is participation in the study required?

- Participation is voluntary. Nobody has to participate in a focus group or answer any questions they do not want to.
- The decision to participate and the information shared with AIR would not affect your access to ACF services or future conferences in any way.
- AIR will keep all information private and will not attribute your name or organization to any information shared by you during the focus group.



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO EXPRESS
YOUR INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING
IN A FOCUS GROUP

Contact Information

For more information about the study, reach out to the Gee Rege at grege@air.org or (202) 403-6240.

*Please note that the focus group is pending Office of Management and Budget approval, as required under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Session Notes

Session Title:

Action Prompts:

- How can I use this insight in my work?
- Who will I share this insight with?
- Where can I learn more about this topic?

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